United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1700
3 August 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations pledging conference generates $137 million in fresh contributions for Rwanda; substantial amounts of food aid arriving at Kigali airport.

+ Bosnian Serbs ask UNPROFOR to release weapons from Sarajevo exclusion zone as heavy fighting breaks out north of city; Special Representative Akashi delegates authority to use air strikes in case of attempt to remove weapons by force.

+ Giorgio Giacomelli, Director-General of United Nations Vienna Office, appointed as Secretary-General of Ninth United Nations Crime Congress.

+ United Nations Drug Control Programme sets up 35-member inter-governmental working group to help combat drug traffic by sea.

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The United Nations pledging conference in Geneva yesterday received $137 million in fresh contributions for Rwanda, according to a spokesman for the Organization. He said that some $440 million had so far been received in response to last month's inter-agency appeal, but noted that some of that money had been channeled through non-governmental organizations and bilateral agreements.

Meanwhile, a substantial amount of food and other relief supplies has been arriving at Kigali airport and will be distributed throughout Rwanda, the spokesman continued. The United States has provided 50 trucks to aid that process.

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Heavy fighting has broken out north of Sarajevo, and United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) Commander Lieutenant-General Michael Rose has visited the area to assess the situation, a spokesman for the Organization announced today. The Bosnian Serbs asked for the release of heavy weapons

(more)

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from three sites in the Sarajevo exclusion zone, claiming they were under heavy pressure from Bosnian Government forces. UNPROFOR declined that request, and reinforced its presence at the three sites.

The spokesman said Special Representative Yasushi Akashi had delegated authority to use air strikes should the Bosnian Serbs try to remove the weapons by force, while Lieutenant-General Rose had vowed to resist any such effort.

Meanwhile, some progress was reported yesterday in Sarajevo on the possible reopening of the Butmir road and on prisoner-of-war transfers. The Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serb representative said they would continue talks on those issues, and give a draft anti-sniping agreement further consideration.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Giorgio Giacomelli as Secretary-General of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which will be held in Tunis in April 1995. Mr. Giacomelli is Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna and Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. Eduardo Vetere, Chief of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, was named as Executive Secretary for the Congress. He was Executive Secretary of the Eighth United Nations Crime Congress, which was held in Havana in 1990.

The United Nations has convened a Crime Congress every five years since 1955 to provide a forum for the exchange of experience and the mobilization of public opinion regarding global issues in crime prevention and control. The 1995 Congress will focus on such issues as maintaining the rule of law; combating organized transnational crime and money laundering; and preventing juvenile violence.

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The United Nations Drug Control Programme has established a 35-member inter-governmental working group with a view to improving the interdiction of drug traffic by sea. It took that action in line with a decision taken last month by the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The group's first meeting has been scheduled for 19 to 23 September in Vienna.

The working group will prepare specific recommendations, tailored to the needs of specially vulnerable regions, on promoting cooperation in information sharing and law enforcement in the maritime sector. In particular, it will seek to enhance implementation of article 17 of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. That article provides for cooperation among States parties in identifying, boarding and searching suspicious ships, as well as in conducting arrests and seizures.

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